



#### NEWS RELEASE

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## NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE HITS RECORD HIGH, NEARLY REACHING STATE GOAL OF 90 PERCENT

Nebraska public schools graduated nearly 90 percent of their high school seniors in 2014, increasing the percentage of graduates to 89.7 percent, up from 88.5 percent in 2013.

The public school graduation rate has steadily improved since 2011 when 86.1 percent of the high school seniors graduated in four years.

Year*	4- Year Graduation Rate	# Graduates
2011	86.12 %	19,313
2012	87.63 %	19,317
2013	88.49 %	19,389
2014	89.68 %	19,500

\*As required by the U.S. Department of Education, Nebraska began reporting graduation rates by the Four-Year Cohort method in 2011.

"Nebraska public schools set a new all-time high graduation rate this year, in effect, reaching the state goal," Nebraska Education Commissioner Matt Blomstedt said, commenting on new 2014 data released today by the Nebraska Department of Education.

Blomstedt also noted that the state's six-year graduation rate topped the state goal with 91.1 percent of all high school seniors graduating within six years.

"The bottom line: Nebraska schools don't give up on their students," Blomstedt said. "Nebraska teachers and administrators work hard to keep all students in school and to get them to graduation despite the academic struggles and difficult and challenging circumstances some students face daily."

The 2014 six-year graduation rate improved from nearly 89.7 percent to 91.1 percent or 20,137 high school seniors graduating in six years.

For the first time this year, school districts that graduated 100 percent of their seniors also were named. In 2014, 65 Nebraska school districts graduated 100 percent of their seniors in four years and 69 districts graduated all seniors in six years. In the past, Nebraska has not provided results when all students were included in a single category to further protect the privacy of individual students.

The new graduation data as well as dropout rates have been added to the State of the Schools Report and are available at: <http://www.education.ne.gov/> or <http://reportcard.education.ne.gov>.